

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 SWF-01 /070 W

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R 161113Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 272

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LAHORE 1635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO TOUR OF PUNJAB -- ROUND TWO

REF: A) LAHORE 1472; B) LAHORE 1473; C) LAHORE 1519

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO COMPLETED NINE-DAY BARNSTORMING OF MULTAN DIVISION NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 7 AS SECOND INSTALLMENT OF HIS "GRAND TOUR" OF PUNJAB. THEMES STRESSED DURING SIX PUBLIC SPEECHES WERE VITALLY SAME AS THOSE USED DURING ROUND ONE IN BAHAWALPUR, EXCEPT THAT, IF PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE REFLECTION, HE EMPHASIZED DOMESTIC OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MAJOR ACT DURING TOUR WAS GRANT OF OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TO SOME 8,000 CO-OP FARMERS IN AREA. HE ALSO INSTRUCTED PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER TO REPLACE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE MINISTER WITH MPA FROM AREA WHO IS LARGE AND SUCCESSFUL LANDLORD. (NAWAB MOHAMMED KHANNKHAKWANI, MPA FROM MULTAN DISTRICT, BEING SWORN IN DECEMBER 16 TO FILL BILL.) ALL IN ALL, MULTAN TOUR STACKS UP AS ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR BHUTTO. NEXT ROUND, IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION ARENA, IS EXPECTED BEGIN ABOUT JANUARY 10. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO BEGAN HIS NINE-DAY TOUR OF

MULTAN DIVISION NOV 29 WITH BIG PUBLIC MEETING AT OKARA, SAHIWAL DISTRICT. SECOND ROUND OF "GRAND TOUR" OF PUNJAB INCLUDED FIVE OTHER PUBLIC SPEECHES AND SIX "OPEN KUTCHERY" (GRIDVANCE) SESSIONS WHICH PM HAS BEGUN TO MAKE POPULAR. THEMES BHUTTO STRESSED AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE VIRTUALLY SAME AS THOSE HE USED DURING NOVEMBER TOUR OF BAHAWALPUR DIVISION (REFTELS), EXCEPT THAT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, HE EMPHASIZED DOMESTIC OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. BHUTTO SPENT ONE DAY MORE THAN HE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED IN MULTAN BECAUSE NUMBER OF PPP WORKERS, EXCLUDED FROM AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONY IN MULTAN NOV 29, WERE SO ANNOYED HE HAD TO STAY OVER TO PACIFY THEM IN GROUP MEETING DEC 7. ONE OTHER PROBLEM WAS IN MUZZAFAGARTH DISTRICT, WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED WITH MUCH POMP AND SHOW BY FORMER CHIEF MINISTER MUSTAFA KHAR AND FOLLOWERS. THERE WERE HINTS IN PRESS THAT FEDERAL LAW MINISTER MERAJ KHALID AND PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER HANEEF RAMAY WERE UNHAPPY OVER WELCOME KHAR STAGED, AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY. HOWEVER, PAPERS CARRIED VERY LITTLE ON MUZZAFAGARTH EVENTS EXCEPT FOR KHAR STATEMENTS PLEDGING FEALTH TO PRIME MINISTER. THIS SEEMS TO HAVE SATISFIED RAMAY AND KHALID.

3. BHUTTO CONTINUED DRUMFIRE OF CRITICISM AGAINST OPPOSITION, PARTICULARLY NAP AND OTHER UDF PARTIES. AS IN BAHAWALPUR, HE PRESIDED OVER VARIOUS CEREMONIES INDUCTING FORMER OPPOSITION MEMBERS (MOSTLY MUSLIM LEAGUE) INTO PPP. UDF LEADERS, WHO ONCE AGAIN STAGED SIMULTANEOUS TOUR (REMINISCENT OF "TRUTH SQUADS" OF U.S. POLITICS), STAYED OUTSIDE MULTAN DIVISION, AND WERE FORCED BY IMPOSITION OF SECTION 144 TO HOLD THEIR MEETINGS INDOORS UNDER PARTY OR BAR ASSOCIATION LABELS. UDF LEADERS APPARENTLY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF DEFYING SECTION 144, BUT NONE ACTUALLY DID, AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

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4. PRIME MINISTER TOOK OCCASSIONS OF TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BERATE MULTANIS FOR TWO DEMANDS HE SAID HE HAD HEARD VOICED. (1) AS HE HAD WITH BAHAWALPU SEPARATISTS, HE TOLD MULTANIS HE WOULD NEVER CONCEDE AUTONOMOUS "SERAIKI SUBA" (PROVINCE OF SERAIKI-SPEAKING PEOPLE). (2) ASKED WHY TAX ON COTTON IN PUNJAB WAS DOUBLE THAT IN SIND, BHUTTO RETORTED THAT TAX MEASURES WERE PROVINCIAL SUBJECT AND HE WOULD NEVER PRESSURE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ABOUT SUCH MATTERS.

5. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT ACTION BHUTTO TOOK DURING TOUR WAS TO GRANT OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TO SOME 8,000 TENANT FARMERS IN COOPERATIVE SCHEMES IN DIVISION. HE ORDERED THAT LANDS BE PROVIDED TO TENANTS AT 1926 PRICES, PROVIDED FARMERS WERE WILLING TO CULTIVATE LANDS ON COOPERATIVE BASIS. HE ASSERTED THAT STEP WAS IMPORTANT FOR POOR PEOPLE, DESPITE FACT IT WOULD COST GOVERNMENT LOSS OF "RS. 400 CRORES."

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6. DURING PPP MEETING IN MULTAN DEC 6, PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY TO TAKE PPP MPA M. K. KHAKWANI INTO PROVINCIAL CABINET AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER, PORTFOLIO CURRENTLY HELD BY BRIGADIER SAHIBDAD KHAN. KHAKWANI BEING SWORN IN TODAY (DEC 16).

7. ONCE AGAIN, PRIME MINISTER TOOK NUMBER OF ACTIONS BENEFITTING PEOPLE OF TOUR AREA, APPROVING NEW PROJECTS, INCLUDING TWO (POSSIBLY THREE) TEXTILE MILLS, SUGAR MILL BRIDGES AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS, PROVISION OF NATURAL GAS, NEW SCHOOLS, ELECTRIFICATION OF MANY VILLAGES, 1,000 NEW TUBEWELLS, MINI STEEL MILL AND CEMENT FACTORY IN D. G. KHAN; PLUS LOAN OF MONEY TO ENTREPRENEURS FOR

BUILDING MATCH FACTORY, HARDBOARD, GUM AND OTHER SMALL INDUSTRIES IN MUZZAFAGARH. DURING OPEN "KUTCHERIES" HE PROMISED LOOK INTO NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FROM PETITIONERS INCLUDING GHEE INDUSTRIALISTS, BAR ASSOCIATION, TRIBAL LEADERS, JUTEGROWERS, JOURNALISTS, LABOR LEADERS AND NEEDY COMMON FOLK.

8. BHUTTO APPARENTLY HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT DID TOUCH BRIEFLY UPON SOME SUBJECTS. HE ASSERTED PAKISTAN HAD DEVELOPED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE SUPER-POWERS, REFUSED TO DISCLOSE HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE ARAB COUNTRIES HAD GIVEN PAKISTAN, DECLARED HE WOULD NEVER COMPROMISE WITH INDIA OVER KASHMIR, CALLED ADOPTION OF UN RESOLUTION DECLARING SOUTH ASIA NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE "VICTORY FOR PAKISTAN," MAINTAINED THAT GOP RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WAS "CORRECT" DECISION, PROFESSED UNHAPPINESS ABOUT DESPERATE FOOD SITUATION IN BD, AND SAID GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND MORE FOOD EVEN THOUGH BDG HAD NEVER THANKED GOP FOR FIRST INSTALLMENT. HE LAID OFF AFGHANISTAN, REPEATING EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT PAKISTAN WISHED NOTHING MORE THAN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOA ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NEVER COMPROMISE ON ISSUES OF SOVEREIGNTY OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

9. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER LEFT OVERALL IMPRESSION OF SUCCESS IN COMPLETING SECOND OF FIVE ROUNDS IN PUNJAB POPULARITY CONTEST. HE RAN INTO NO APPARENT SNAGS, AND REPORTEDLY DREW REASONABLY BIG CROWDS AT EACH STOP. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OPEN KUTCHERIES SEEM ESPECIALLY WELL-REACHED BY PUBLIC AND POLITICAL BACKERS. WE ANTICIPATE NO IMPEDIMENTS TO A THIRD SUCCESSFUL ROUND, COVERING RAWALPINDI DIVISION BEGINNING ABOUT JANUARY 10. SPENGLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, SIMLA AGREEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAHORE01635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740367-1011
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741233/aaaabbpl.tel
Line Count: 208
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LAHORE 1472, 74 LAHORE 1473, 74 LAHORE 1519
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO TOUR OF PUNJAB -- ROUND TWO
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005